

Dear Chairmen Sanchez and McCrory, Ranking Members McCarty and Berthel, and all Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to you today to express my **support for SB 948**, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

Although Connecticut is among the top 5 states in the country for K-12 education, we are doing a huge disservice to so many of our students. The past year has made it clearer than ever that our schools and our children need to be funded fully, equitably, and immediately. It breaks my heart when I see review the growing list of Donors Choose requests for basic supplies from neighboring towns. Connecticut students have faced unprecedented hardships this past year, and they simply cannot wait multiple years to attend a fully-funded school.

Connecticut's public schools are deeply racially and economically segregated. The CT Finance Project has noted that there is a \$639 million funding gap between Connecticut districts that serve majority white students versus those that serve a majority BIPOC population. A student's race or zip code should not determine whether they are successful in school and we have the obligation to make sure it does not.

Our kids deserve to have everything they need based on what they need to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom. Kids who attend magnet schools, charter schools, and other public schools of choice deserve to be funded through a formula that takes their learning needs into account. Our English Language Learners, students who are often economically disadvantaged, and students navigating through their education in communities that experience concentrated poverty, all deserve additional funding at a rate that makes a real, tangible difference. Eliminate the phase-in and fully fund ECS. Our children cannot wait.

Over the past year, many of us have talked about the need for equity in our state. Equity starts with education and opportunities for all our children. I am depending on all of you to value each student when you are making decisions about how we fund their education.

Thank you for your time, and I ask you to support S.B. 948.

Colleen Broderick  
Ridgefield, CT